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SUNDAY ...... APRIL 14, 1895.

### Enster.

Throughout Chistendom Easter is hailed Throughout Chistendom Easter is halved and celebrated as the Queen of Feasts. However it got its name, it is forever identified with the rising of Jesus Christ from the dead. And it stands in its place, while the earth remains and seedtime and harvest, summer and winter come and go, to testify to all generations the resurrections. to testify to all generations the resurred ion of the Lord of Life and His triumph over the king of terrors. And its proclanation to mankind is : Death hath no nore dominion over you. Now is Christ fruits of them that slept. With that announcement we commit our treasures to the earth, looking for the general resurrection at the last day and the life of the

Death, unexplained and in its terror, s the blight and doom of life. We can not took in its face and count life worth living. The horrible but familiar fact is a dark, a fearful cloud that, like a pall, blackens and withers all our being; that makes joy to pass for madness, and all sober though o be funereal. The relief for unexplained leath is madness and despair. Under it

s only dimness of the eyes and anguish. And such was the world before the Morn of Easter dawned first upon it and the clouds and shadows fled away. Life and immortality were then brought to light and forever assured by that greatest of all events of history-the resurrection of

That great event was and is the world's day-spring. Without it all is chaes, and darkness broods over the face of the deep. Marvellous coincidence is it that the day on which we commemorate the resurrection is the first day of the week, that on which God said. Let there be light, and there was light; on the holy Sabbath, that tells of rest and peace and Heaven. How wonderfully eloquent, how amazingy beautiful is Easter-Day, bright with hope's sunshine, fragrant with the sweetest odors of promise!

The Democratic Party Still Alive. ons who hold that it is already settled that the next President of the United States is to be a Republican, mono metallist, and protectionist, and therefore bitterly opposed to the free coinage "There's many a slip 'twixt of silver. the cup and the lip." In 1844, the Democratic party was in a condition not unlike in some respects its present condition But at the last moment, even after the delegates to the Democratic National Convention had assembled we think, the leaders made a new issue, and declared known, over the great Henry Clay.

for the annexation of Texas to this The result was the election of James K. Polk, a man comparatively unthis one example serve to warn the Republicans not to be over-sanguine when mates of the relative strength which the two parties will manifest in the next presidential election. It is one thing to count the votes after they are cast, and mother thing to count them before they tre cast. We make these remarks because, peculating upon the probable result of

the presidential election of next year, the it says is one fact worthy of attentionnamely, the singularly small extent to which the Democratic party is now factor in the calculation. As we have Herald and all the rest of the Mugwump papers will set their words to another lity for the next twenty years. tune a little more than twelve months They will find out before that count of itself in November, 1896, though | circles. the Herald says now that the Democratic leaders are suggesting no list of candiand other possible Republican nominees.

The Democratic party is alive-full of dential race of next year. Indeed, we material to select from as Stevenson, life. His age was 70 years. Whitney, Hill, and others who might be named, the Democrats will surely not suffer from a lack of prominent aspi-

Trolley Roads vs. Steam Roads. At one of the legislative hearings at Hartford last week, counsel for the steam roads showed the immense losses in local passenger traffic which the pareliel electric lines were inflicting upon the steam lines. And the steam roads, it would seem, expect the Legislature to protect them from this ruinous competi-

The Springfield Republican says that the exchibit is an astonishing one. This exhibit shows the number of strictly local passengers carried by the steam road between the stations named during the six months ending with February, 1894, and the six months ending with February, 1895. We give some of these surprising figures-as follows:

Six Months.

Bridgeport and Stratford ... 23,547 7,088
N. Haven and West Haven .. 8,234 6,619
N. Haven and East Haven ... 5,619 2,203 Meriden and Yalesville......13,768 Hartford and Rocky Hill...... 7,598 Union City and Waterbury. 23.124 Naugatuck and Waterbury... 48.672 New Haven and Woodmont.. 8,580 Bridgeport and Southport... 20,748 15,617
Meriden and Wallingford... 34,237 24,548
So. Norwalk and Rowayton. 33,698 21,814
So. Norwalk and Winnepauk... 808
Derby and Ansonia... 2,479 2,225

Derby and Ansonia...... 2,479 2,225
This large falling off—amounting in ome cases almost to total extinctionresults, as we have said, from the competition of the electric lines. We do not see how such competition can be prevented; but the steam roads have asked to him.

the Legislature to prohibit the construction of electric roads between towns now connected by steam lines. This is protection with a vengeance. The protection of American industries sinks into insignificance when contrasted with this suggested protection to steam roads. It would be to discourage invention, and put an end to progress towards perfection in methods of transit. We do not know how the proposition was received in the Connecticut Legislature; but the facts will soon come out, no doubt.

It appears that if the electric lines ar allowed to carry freight the local freight traffic of the steam roads will be affected even more quickly and seriously. tered letter. Currency sent by mail will it sppears, also, that the decline in pas-be at the risk of the sender. Subscribers senger traffic on the steam roads is less senger traffic on the steam roads is less proportionately for long distances than for short distances. The Republican says:

short distances. The Republican says:

"For distances above seven or eight miles the steam roads have little to fear from electric competition, where the service is at all adequate to the demands of the public; since the electric roads will always be compelled to limit their speed as long as they occupy the public highway. And for shorter distances more frequent trains and lower fares will do much to keep business in the hands of the steam lines."

In other words, competition is a prerequisite to the best service, and this prerequisite cannot be be dispensed with. And so we come back to the original proposition that the Legislature of Consecticut can hardly be expected to indulge in this new-fangled kind of protection.

We are glad to find that the Springfield Republican pronounces the request of the steam roads for protection against the electric roads "an extreme demand." For nobody can foretell what grand results are yet to follow from the increasing uses to which electricity is being applied. We quote the Republican again:

"Cheaper and more convenient trans-portation is not a public curse, but a public benefit; and in so far as the electric public benefit; and in so far as the electric road is able to supply such transportation its construction is to be welcomed, not prohibited. The vested interests in the steam roads have their rights, but not the right to stand against improvement and progress. The cotton-mill equipped with old machinery wight as well ask the

The Income-Tax. We suggested the other day that if the people of the United States were really risen from the dead and become the first in favor of an income-tax they could secure it by preposing and ratifying an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing for such a tax. Assistant Attorney General Whitney made a few days afterwards the same suggestion. This we regard as significant, coming from the source it does. Mr. Whitney evidently holds the income-tax law now existing to be a constitutional law, and, no doubt, concurs in the opinion of a well-known banker of this city that that tax is a fair one. In an interview in Washington on Fri-

day, Mr. Whitney said: "If they (the people) desire such a tax they can secure the passage of a constitutional amendment wiping out the direct clause of the Constitution. This clause, now so importent, practically has outlived its original feason. Its adoption was mainly procured by persons who destred to protect the institution of slavery. They were afraid that the anti-slavery movement would take the form of prohibitory taxation, either by a poli-tax or by a land-tax (for slaves were usually considered to be real estate). This clause, originally intended to protect the slavery of the black by the white, now effects the oppression of the comparatively poor as "If they (the people) desire such a tax ppression of the comparatively poor as mpared with the rich.'

Yes, that clause has completely outlived the object for which it was put into the Constitution, and ought to be stricken out of that instrument. It is preposterous to undertake to argue in favor of any law, constitutional or other, which requires that direct taxes shall be so dreinfans.

Summer and Our Water Supply.

Our people want plenty of water this Those of them who live on high points in the city were on short allowance last year. Towards the close of the season there was some improvement in the supply, but for months and months many water-takers had to pay full price for half of a supply.

We wish that the experts, whose advice the Committee on Water have decided to ask, would help to devise a plan for the immediate relief of water-takers, as well as a plan for the permanent enlargement of the water-works.

It may be several years before our city will be justified in making a large issue of bonds. So, if possible, arrangements ought to be made to tide us along in an inexpensive way until the time comes when we can make the large expenditure needed.

We say, "if possible," because we don't know that any temporary arrangement will carry us satisfactorily over the summer; but we remember that towards the close of last summer an effective device for the improvement of the high point Boston Herald calls attention to what service was adopted, which was either not available, or had not been thought

of earlier in the season. In short, our present aim should be to meet the demands of the city for the intimated, we do not agree that this is a coming summer, and then go on to make fact. We doubt not that the Boston permanent arrangements, arrangements which will anticipate the growth of the

Announcement is made of the death in time that the Democratic party is ready | London of Mr. William Noel Sainsbury, long and favorably known in historical

More than forty years ago Mr. Sainsbury received an appointment in the old flates from which the candidate may be State Paper-Office in London, and at once selected, whilst the Republicans will at a evinced great aptitude for the duties of moment's notice name Reed, McKinley, his position. He was long employed in arranging the vast accumulations of We do not feel alarmed at the prospect | public records, then first systematically of defeat which the Herald sets before us. undertaken, into the three great series in which they are now classified in the spalife. It is bent upon winning the presi- clous apartments in Fetter Lane. Many years ago, at the instance of our State cannot imagine how the Boston Herald authorities, Mr. Sainsbury collected and reaches the conclusion that there are no sent here to Richmond numerous valuable men in the Democratic party prominent State papers relating to the early history enough to be named at present as the of Virginia. He was an amiable and acprobable or possible nomince. With such complished gentleman, and lived a useful

> But whatever the Republicans do, unless there is a decided change in the political aspect, they have no occasion to fear the Democrats as opponents in the next presidential election.-Boston Herald.

Then they have no occasion to fear any party; for certainly the Democratic party is stronger than any of the ephemeral parties.

If President Cleveland would appoint delegates to the international bimetallic onference and use his influence to have that conference assemble at an early day, the whole aspect of things might be changed before the time for the meeting of the Democratic National Convention of next year. But, unfortunately, the President cannot be relied upon to do what we have suggested.

Reports from Harvard show that the verseers, in voting to reform foot-ball as a condition of retaining it, are to insist on changes in the game, "There is to be no publicity." Only undergraduates and alumni are to be allowed to witness the sacred mysteries of the play, and "there will be no passes for mewspaperreporters." This will be good news for the reporters. It will relieve them of some work, and lose them no fun.

No one realizes the influence of the press so much as the editor who listens to "suggestions" from people who have gotten their ideas from the editor's own articles, and who forthwith rush to the newspaper office to unfold their views

Judge Diggs and the Convention. We have a letter from ex-Judge Diggs, of Lynchburg, pointing out that many of the reforms now demanded by the people can be accomplished by the General Assembly. Among these he enumerates the matter of appeals in capital cases from the county courts to the circuit courts, and from the circuit courts to the Su-

preme Court of Appeals. The Dispatch knows very well, and always has known, that this change could be made by our Legislature. We have never argued that a convention ought to be held to alter this law. Oh, no; but the Legislature has hitherto refused to make any change in the system. crust that now, in the light of the Goodruan case, it will at once rectify the evil. But if the Legislature refuses to make

In this he is, no doubt, correct; but since biennial sessions of the General Assembly have been in vogue, the Legislature is in a rush from the first day to the inst day of its sessions. The election of Capitol officers, etc., the framing of appropriation bills, and the attention demanded by current business take up all its time. It has no leisure for great questions that require full discussion and areful consideration. Hence, while it is a fact that the Legislature has the power to make many of the changes that the people ask, the fact remains that it does not do so. At least, it has not heretofore done so. What effect the talk about a constitutional convention will have remains to be seen. We think, however, that there are signs that the next Legislature is going to be a little more progressive than others have been.

But, slur the fact as we may, it is quite certain that the reduction of assessments now going on throughout the State is going to bring us face to face with a grave question. Agricultural lands have shrunk in value, and the people insist upon being relieved of some of the burdens of taxation that they are bearing To accomplish their object they have insisted upon having reductions made in the assessments of their lands. The next question with them will be: Shall we cut down the pay of county officers, or abolish some of the offices?

This will be the problem. It must be met. If the Legislature can solve it, well and good. But if it can't, what more natural than that the people should look to a convention for relief? There are twice as many voters in favor of a con vention this year as there were last year. Next year the number will be still further increased. There are thousands who favor a convention "as soon as it can be safely held." Among this number is the Dispatch.

That better men can be gotten for a constitutional convention than for a Legislature will hardly be seriously questioned. It is an honor to be elected to the Senate or House of Delegates, but it is a much greater honor to be elected a member of a constitutional convention. A convention is a historic body. The names of its members go into history. Such has been the experience of Virginia in the past. Of course, we make an exception in the case of the members of the convention who were elected in 1867. Then disfranchised. We had but a small number of voters from whom to choose. How ever, even then we were able to comapportioned as to require a thousand mand the services of a number of able ew York millionaires to pay no more and excellent gentlemen, who stood up of such tax than is paid by a thousand nobly for the old State, though outvoted by the carpet-baggers and scalawags. Now, if a convention was ordered, each city and county could go to its brightest and best men and say, "You have got to serve us in the convention," and nine times out of ten the answer would be a cheerful "Yes."

However, we do not think that it would be wise for our party to commit itself to a date for a vote on the convention question until we have gathered in the experiences of the May and November elections. Leave the matter for the next Legislature to decide. The Dispatch wants a constitutional convention-but to suit us it must be a Democratic convention.

# Russia Objects.

If the latest news from the East and from St. Petersburg is to be credited, the press of this country and of Europe were pre mature in concluding that peace between China and Japan was practically an accomplished fact. The advices referred to indicate that serious complications and side issues have arisen, which may not only result in the resumption, at the end of the armistice, of hostilities between the principals, but drag some of the European Powers-notably, England and Russia-into the trouble. Such an eventuation has been considered probable ever since the beginning of the war, and now probability has almost taken the form of cer tainty. The Chinese commissioners, it is charged, have taken advantage of the armistice to do exactly what it was expected in certain quarters they would do and that is, make strenous appeals to the European Powers to intervene. One of their strongest appeals was, it is said, to Russia, and it is stated that St. Petersburg has answered that appeal by declaring that she will oppose the proposed

terms of peace. It was given out a few days ago that the delay in arranging a treaty was due to the higgling of China over the indemnity clause of Japan's demand. This clause required the payment of 300,000,000 taels, the equivalent of which in gold is about \$215,000,000. An inside view of Chinese manoeuvring would seem to show, however, that this was a more subterfuge to gain time and complete negotiations with Russia.

In broad terms, Russia's objection to Japan's demands is the proposition to annex territory on the Asiatic continent, but her specific objection is to Japanese domination of Manchuria. We are told that Japan requires the cession of the Province Lian-Fung, which cession would take in Moukden and all the territory between the great wall and the Korean frontier, thus driving in a wedge between the Hermit Kingdom and the sphere of Russian influence. That such a buffer would prove a serious obstacle to Russian intrigue in Korea and to Russia's acquiring a port south of Vladivostock will become apparent to any one who will take tne trouble to examine a map of that part of the globe. But that is not all. This cartographic examination would also England's interest that the Manchurian wedge should be driven, so as to prevent Russia from dominating the Japan sea As the situation now presents itself, England and Russia must be at serious cross-purposes, and it follows that whether hostilities are resumed or not at the expiration of the armistice we may expect the most exciting news regarding the final settlement to come from Lon-

don and St. Ptersburg. a horror of the man who comes in upon them saying, "Is this your 'sanctum sanctorum'?" etc., etc., and "I know that your time is valuable," etc. Such a fellow will sit and sit (or stand and stand, which is much worse), and talk and talk. and bore you within an inch of your life. Beware of him, brethren of the press.

A patent has just been granted to young inventor in St. Paul, Minn., for improvement of the type-writing machine which will greatly increase its speed.

The improvement consists of the introduction of the stenographic principle, making the machine capable of printing whole words at single strokes of the keys. Many of the small words and word-endings which are most frequently used, are represented in the new ma by separate keys of their own, and by a clever device the spacing is made to correspond automatically with the length

## of the words thus set apart.

No wonder the comic papers represent Boston car-conductors as reading Schoepenhauer and discussing Browning when such a paper as the Boston Herald warns the school authorities of that city that it will never do to allow school girls at play to say, "I done it."

istration. He is 67 years old, and is

A conference of 200 Democratic editors of New York State is said to be on the programme, its purpose being the reunion of the factions of the party on a common basis, to prepare for 1396.

The West Point Virginian expresses the opinion that Congressman Jones is going to be the next Governor of Virginia.

The three most distinguished octogena rians alive are Leo XIII., Gladstone, and Bismarck. Willing to Experiment.

"I've quaffed the stream of Helicon," The poet did begin, As proudly the Kentuckis a's Sanctorum he walked in;

"Don't know the brand," the Kentuck With short, convulsive laugh, "But, all the same, I'll go with you

An' j'ine yo' in a quaff."

Fated. "Down on my knees," the sultor said, "I plead your answer condescending"; "That seals your fate," said she; "for love That mates with mine should be unbending."

## Inopportune.

"All flesh is grass," the farmer said, As swept his scythe the clover through 'I'll quit," the hired man returned, "Tain't safe to work along o' you."

Wisdom of Experience. Ely: Good morning. I want you to do me a favor. I need a pair of trousers; you see, I er-I er-am a little "short" this month-

Tailor: That's easily remedled, Bring in the last pair I made for you, and I will alter them to suit your abbreviated condition.

#### Accounted For.

Lipper: What a testy, irascible woman Meeker's wife is; and, by the way, did you ever notice what an enormous Adam's apple she has? Chipper: Yes; and, come to think of it,

may be that accounts for her always having so much "sass."

#### Qualified Approval. Miss Thumper (who has been instru-

mental in working up a feud between the pianoforte and one of Wagner's com positions): Do you approve of the music of the future, Mr. Blunt? Mr. Blunt: Oh, yes; if it's sufficiently re-

#### Sympathetic. Tramp: I beg pardon for annoying you,

madam, but I really haven't had a bite to-day.

you could have escaped, for Towser's been running loose all the morning.

# A Misunderstanding.

Chance Acquaintance (entering circle where Fraleman was in conversation): Mr. Fraleman, excuse me, but I would like to see you apart, if you please, Fraleman: Who told you that I had false nose and a wooden leg?

Not an Uncommon Loss. Quester: Sad loss Tangley met with wasn't it? Of course you've heard of it? Jester: No: but I saw him coming from the club last evening, and I noticed at once he had lost something-it seemed to me to be his balance.

# About Right.

"What are those signs of?" asked the boy, gazing at a pompous militiaman, appeared, covered with badges and insignia, at a military entertainment.

"Excuse me," said the jockey, as the sexton was about to usher him to a front pew, "excuse me; but my profession has accustomed me to a back-seat."

The papers tell of a produce-dealer who had "60,000 eggs spoil on his hands." Imagine such a man offering his hand to a young lady!

A woman may not be able to throw i stone straight, but when she "throws her soul" into anything she generally hits

The barber doesn't give himself much oncern about a future existence; he has a little "next" world of his own.

A good many business failures are resultant from people not minding their owin' business.

# Literary Notes.

Mr. W. H. Rideing, of the Youth's Companion, was so unfortunate lately as to lose by fire the manuscript of a book of travels, upon which he had been engaged for three years. This was almost as bad as what befell the manuscript of a story of the present writer's several years ago. It was sent to a Boston "fake" concern competition for a prize offered, and has never been heard from since Mr. Rideing has the ashes left, at any

Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's recollections are to be brought out in book form next autumn. She will thus get her rights at last-copyrights. "Municipal Home Rule," by Frank J.

Goodnow, is announced for publication

this month. Mr. Goodnow is professor of administrative law in Columbia Colrege. His book, it is said, presents an entirely new discussion of a much-discussed "The History of the Fan" will soon published by Macmillan & Co. It will include chapters on fan-painting, and one on fan-collecting. The same firm has in

New York story of to-day. The author is woman, and a practical worker in university settlements. Macmillan & Co. will issue a new edi ion, in one volume, of I. Zangwill's mas-"Children of the Ghetto." "The Major's Favorite," by John

Strange Winter, is announced by J. Selwin

press "An Experiment in Altruism," a

Among G. P. Putnam's announcements for this month are "Doctor Isard," by Anna Katherine Green; "The Ancient Egyptian Doctrine of the Immortality of the Soul," by Professor A. Wiedeman; "Yale Yarns," by John S. Wood, and "Her Majesty the Queen," by Elizabeth Knight

Roberts Prothers publish a "Life of

Prince Bismarck," by Charles Lowe, M. A.; "How We Rose," by David Nelson Brach; "Tales of Mean Streets," by Author Morrison; "God's Light as it Came to Me," a story of mental science, and "A Hand-Book on Turberculosis Among Cattle," with considerations of its relation to the health of the human family. compiled by Henry L. Shumway.

Mr. Moncure D. Conway has, if is reported, discovered some further Paine documents in Paris. He is now in London, preaching every Sunday at the South Place chapel.

Five French dramatists are at present engaged on plays dealing with "Louis XVII."—Sardou, Pierre Decourcelle, Hanri Ceard, Henri de Weindel, and Charles Buet.

D. Appleton & Co.'s spring announce-

D. Appleton & Co.'s spring announce-ments include "Hand-Book of Birds of Eastern North America." by Frank M. Chapman, Illustrated; "Familiar Flowers of Field and Garden," by F. Schuyler Mathews, Illustrated; "An Alde-de-Camp of Nanoleco"—Montre of the Barra de But if the Legislature refuses to make the change, and a constitutional convention is held, then we hope that the convention will give to the public relief that vention will give to the public relief that the Legislature refuses. Murderers now have too many appeals. Let them have too many appeals. Let them have county court or the circuit court, but county court or the circuit court, but let them have only one appeal—and that let them have only one appeal—and that direct to the Supreme Court of Appeals. However, we don't understand Judge Diggs as being opposed to a constitutional convention. What he wishes to do is to point out that the Legislature has it in its power to correct many of the abuses of which the people are now compaining. In this he is, no doubt, correct; but since by Anthony Hope Count Antonio. the Fire of the Forgs," a romance of old Nuremberg, by Dr. Georg Ebers; "The Wish," by Hermann Sudermann; "In Old New England; or, The Romance of Colonial Fireside," by Hezeklah Butt i worth; "The New Moon," by C. E. Ra mond; "The Story of Sonny Sahlo" b worth; 'The New Moon,' by C. E. Rai-mond; 'The Story of Sonny Sahlo' by Mrs. Everard Cotes; 'Eve's Ransom,' by George Gissing; 'The Marriage of Esther,' by Guy Boothby; 'Into the Highways and Hedges,' by F. F. Mon-tresor; 'Fidells,' by Ada Cambridge; 'A Study in Prejudices,' by George Past-nor; 'James Vansittart's Vengeance,' by Mrs. J. H. Needell; new editions of 'Ap-pletons' General Guide to the United States and Canada; Appletons' Canadian Guide-Book,' complete in one volume; Guide-Book," complete in one volume "Appletons' Hand-Book of Summer Resorts," and "Appletons' Dictionary of New York."

New York."

Mr. A. A. Christian, at one time advertising manager for the Cohn Company, has been engaged by John Wanamaker as successor to Mr. Gilliam, who has gone with Hilton, Hughes & Co. New York, and who is the highest-paid man in the business, his salary being \$10,000 per annum. Wanamak'r paid him \$7,000, and Mr. Christian probably gets the same. Mr. Christian started in the newspaper business by running a weekly in Pulaski, Va. He once had \$1,300 placed with him with which to advertise a sale of lots in a "beam" town of lots in a "beem" town. He placed the advertising by telegraph, and so suc-cessfully that the company sold \$6,000 worth of lots inside of three hours. Mr. Christian was one of the clerks of the House of Delegates for two sessions.

#### Some Reforms Practicable Without a New Constitution.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Frequent allusion has been recently made in your influential journal to the inordinate delays in the administration of justice by our courts, and you are to be much commended for calling public attention to this crying evil. Judges and lawyers boast of their profession as being one of the great conservative forces in the body politic, and hence by a sort of sentimental pride, they look with natural contempt upon every change and upon everthing savoring of reforms. But reforms must needs come, whether they will or no, for it cannot be dealed that the practice and procedure in our courts are far behind the demands of the times. are far behind the demands of the times. The friends of a constitutional convention argue that our judicial system is so cumbrous, expensive, inefficient, and slow in action, as to justify the expense and hazard of a convention to remodel it entirely. I am one of those inclined to the opinion that

"For forms of government, let fools

Whate'er is best administered, is best." So, passing by the question of a new nstitution and a new judicial system, I beg now to suggest a few shi changes, entirely practicable under present system, and under our prepresent system, and under our present constitution that will tend in considerable measure to meet the chronic com-plaint of the law's delays: The Dispatch seems to lay stress upon

delay and uncertainty caused by accused charged with capital crimes having to be tried in the county court, and if tried and convicted, the right of appeal to the circuit court, and thence to the Court of Appeals by accused char crimes having to of Appeals. this whole matter is regulated

Now, this whole matter is regulated by the statute law, and, there being no constitutional right of the accused involved, and no constitutional prohibition upon the Legislature, the Legislature has absolute power to abolish altogether his existing right of appeal. So, there is no need of having either a new constitution, nor an amendment of the old one, in order to cause this evil if evil it be. in order to cure this evil, if evil it be In short, there is very little restriction upon the power of our Legislature in respect to the jurisdiction of the courts. It may confer upon the county and cor-portation courts exclusive jurisdiction in criminal cases, with or without appeal to a higher tribunal, and in cases of ap-peal may provide for speedy trials there-of. It may enjarge the jurisdiction of the county courts, or provide for more fre-quent terms of the circuit courts, thus affording more speedy determination of

It is apparent that most of the vexatious delays pertaining to our system are not chargeable to the Constitution, but to the statutes, and the rules and proceedings of the courts themselves, which might be very advantageously amended. It is gratifying to note that our present urt of Appeals seems to have practical ly abolished what the newspapers called "free writs of error"—that is, the practice of granting appeals merely because they are asked for. The careful examination now given to petitions and records for appeals, and consequent refusals to allow appeals in cases without merit, will allow appeals in cases without merit, wil not only in due time relieve the present crowded condition of the docket, but will lessen the labors of the court, and greatly expedite the hearing of cases properly

But in this connection it may be observed that some of the rules of that court are specially designed to enforce delays that seem to be unreasonable and unnecessary; for instance, the rule that forbids its decisions to be certified down to the lower court until 60 days after such de-cision is rendered. Since the decision becomes final within ten days without application for a rehearing, to hold it sus-pended as it were, in the air, for two months, seems inexplicable. When it is remembered that the result

of nearly every appeal it to remand the case to the lower court for some further proceeding, which can only be taken du-ring a term, and that eighty or more of the counties and cities have only two terms of the circuit courts a year, it must very frequently happen that this rule causes a delay of legal proceedings over six months without any appar ent reason.

But I only designed to call attention to the fact that some of the complaints against our present system floating around in the newspapers might be remedied in a cheaper and more expeditious manner than by a constitutional conven-tion. Respectfully. J. SINGLETON DIGGS. Lynchburg, Va., April 10, 1895.

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